

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049022
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 INR-10 L-03 SS-15 SP-02
/049 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AN:WARILEY
APPROVED BY B/TRA:JRATWOOD
NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
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P R 242337Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
INFO USLO RIYADH

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAIR, US, SA

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS

REF: JIDDA 1056 AND PREVIOUS

1. TWA HAS INDICATED BY LETTER AND IN DISCUSSION WITH
DEPARTMENT THAT SAUDIA AIRLINE PERSONNEL AND SAG
OFFICIALS ARE "DISMAYED BY RED TAPE" CONFRONTING THEIR
NEGOTIATIONS IN DEALING WITH U.S. AND UNHAPPY BY WHAT
THEY REGARD AS USG FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE "UNIQUE
CHARACTERISTICS OF SAUDI ARABIAN MARKET." SAUDIS
APPARENTLY REFERRING TO THE RELUCTANCE OF USG TO COMPRO-
MISE ON AVIATION POLICY PRINCIPLES SUCH AS MULTIPLE
DESIGNATION AND CAPACITY CONTROL. TWA HAS URGED EXCEPTION
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BE MADE DEPARTING FROM NORMAL U.S. AVIATION
PRINCIPLES IN CASE OF SAUDI ARABIA.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY
ASSESSMENT OF SAG SENIOR OFFICIALS REACTION TO US
NEGOTIATING POSITION AND ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SAG INTEREST
IN CONCLUDING A BILATERAL AGREEMENT. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW,

IS TWA ASSESSMENT ACCURATE? WHAT, IN YOUR VIEW, IS
LIKELIHOOD THAT STALEMATE ON OPPOSING AVIATION PRINCIPLES

MAY LEAD TO CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE?

(B) GIVEN APPARENT COOLNESS OF SAG TO RESUMPTION OF
TALKS AND GENERAL DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING UNNECESSARY
CONFRONTATION WITH SAUDIS, REQUEST EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT
BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FEBRUARY 27 OF DESIRABILITY OF
POSTPONING TALKS TO LATER, MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE.

3. COMMENT: FYI - DEPARTMENT HOPES TO EXPLORE WITH
AMBASSADOR WEST STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH SAUDIS ON
CIVAIR. END FYI. VANCE

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